



NOVEMBER 2008 - SUMMARY

This month's list is a somewhat typical reflection of the pattern of gun incidents in Britain in 2008.

- **The number of homicides, four, was just above the monthly average for this year which is at its lowest for at least twenty years. All the victims were male, one a teenager aged 15. The other fatal shooting was the fourth this year in which armed police were involved.**
- **A number of people were injured by firearms, a significant proportion of which were air weapons and imitation guns, many of them targeted at youngsters and fired by other youngsters. The number of young people involved in gun crime, both as victims and perpetrators, remains a major concern. Whilst shooting attacks with real firearms were largely confined to major urban areas those with imitation guns and airguns took place in a wider variety of communities.**
- **The targeting of animals, especially the shooting of cats with airguns, is another aspect of gun crime that occurs every month. These incidents continue apparently unabated.**
- **Guns were used in a number of armed robberies at a variety of premises, including three hotels this month. The weapons are very rarely fired and so the exact nature of the gun is often unknown. Details from court cases held in November suggest that many of the offenders involved are as likely to have been armed with imitation guns as with real firearms.**
- **The ease with which offenders, especially young people, continue to arm themselves with airguns and imitation guns suggests that these weapons remain inadequately controlled in spite of recent legislation. There were reports of police acting against two shops selling imitation firearms, but it appears that more action is needed to ensure that the ban on the sale, import and manufacture of imitation guns is enforced so that the significant impact of these weapons on gun crime in Britain can be further curbed.**
- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were five fatal shootings reported during November.
 - Two victims died of shotgun wounds, both in the Midlands, a 15-year-old was fatally wounded in Derby (a number of arrests have been made and two people have been charged with murder), and a man was shot dead in Tividale in the Black Country.
 - The other two gun homicides occurred in London, in West Ealing where a man was shot dead in an alleyway, and in West Croydon where the male victim was hit in a drive-by shooting.
 - A fifth man died when he was shot in the vicinity of Guildford Cathedral (Surrey) by police responding to reports of an armed man in the city.
- Other shooting incidents that resulted in injury occurred in:
 - Greater Manchester - a man was seriously ill after being shot in the leg in a pub in Moss Side
 - Leeds - a man was shot in the stomach in Chapeltown

- London - a man was found with a serious gunshot wound in a car outside a station in Beckton (east London): two men have been arrested
- Merseyside - a 17-year-old was seriously injured in a shooting in Wavertree
- Strathclyde - a man was shot in the arm, leg and stomach in an attack in Hamilton (Lanarkshire)
- Staffordshire - a man was shot in the bottom during an attack in Rugeley: four people have been arrested
- West Midlands - a 15-year-old was shot in the leg in Pendeford: another 15-year-old has been arrested
- West Yorkshire - a man was shot in the arm in South Kirkby: a man has been charged with attempted murder
- A taxi driver was struck over the head with what is believed to have been a handgun in Normanton (Derby).
- A number of other gun crime victims were hit by pellets fired from airguns and imitation firearms (see below).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies by people apparently armed with guns on:
 - Post offices in Watford (Hertfordshire), High Spen (Tyneside) (the female robber fired a shot) and Epping (Essex)
 - Stores in Chapel-en-le-Frith (Derbyshire), Falmouth (Cornwall) and Johnstone (Renfrewshire)
 - A petrol station near Easington (County Durham)
 - Takeaway restaurants in Blackburn (an airgun is thought to have been fired during the robbery) and Waltham Abbey (Essex)
 - Bookmakers in Renfrew (the latest of a number of recent raids in the West of Scotland) and Cambridge
 - Hotels in Rugby, Bristol (one man has been charged) and Fornham St Genevieve (Suffolk)
- A gunshot was fired during a failed raid on a security depot in Kearsley (Greater Manchester). An armed man stole money during a delivery to a cash point in Yarm (Teesside) and another stole cash from security guards at a garage in Amersham (Buckinghamshire).
- Two young women were robbed at gunpoint in Swansea by a youngster with a small pistol. A man was mugged outside a shop in Smethwick (West Midlands).
- Occupants of a house in Slough (Berkshire) were robbed by two men, one armed with a gun. A man from Mustow Green (Worcestershire) was threatened with a gun and tortured during a robbery at his home. Two men armed with a stun gun escaped with cash and jewellery during a robbery at a home in Luton (Bedfordshire).
- Two armed robbers held up a taxi driver in Southampton, pointing a black handgun at him.
- A lorry driver was threatened with a gun and made to drive across Essex from Thurrock to Fyfield during a robbery.
- **Other Incidents** - A man opened fire on a police car in Highgate (north London): three people have been arrested. A man was arrested after firing a "number of firearms" while police were negotiating with him in Plymouth. Two men fired air rifles at police in two other incidents (see Airguns below).
- An army sergeant has appeared in court on a charge of possession of a firearm with intent to cause violence after allegedly firing off an AK47 rifle at a barracks in Blackwater (Surrey)

- Shotguns were fired at houses in Netherton (Merseyside) and Kingsley (Northampton), and a house was damaged by bullets in Cheadle (Greater Manchester).
- Two people were arrested after reports that a firearm had been discharged in Normanton (Derby).
- Six people were arrested after raids at addresses in Longsight and Tameside in Greater Manchester in an operation to crackdown on major gangland shootings.
- A man from Standish (Lancashire) has appeared in court to face child pornography and firearm charges.
- Police were called to a house in Edwardsville (South Wales) following reports that a person had been seen with a firearm but found nothing.
- **Gun Seizures and Thefts** - A man and a woman were arrested after police found three guns and ammunition in Clydebank (West Dunbartonshire). Strathclyde Police have seized 23 illegal firearms and arrested almost 300 people during a recent crackdown on serious and organised crime.
- On Merseyside, ten teenagers were arrested in Croxteth after police saw them acting suspiciously and found a gun, believed to be a decommissioned weapon, and a 15-year-old boy has been detained after a sawn-off shotgun was found at a house in St Helens.
- A man from Ansdell (Lancashire) was charged with possessing a firearm and ammunition after a weapon and bullets were found at his home.
- It was reported that a Mac-10 sub machine gun recovered from a garden in South London was one of the replica weapons converted by Grant Wilkinson, convicted for converting dozens of replicas into lethal guns in August: a reward have been offered for any information leading to the recovery of 40 outstanding converted guns.
- A machine gun was among items found by police during a raid on a travellers site in Bolton searching for stolen goods.
- A shotgun, ammunition and cash were stolen from a house in Wickham Market (Suffolk). Three shotguns and an air rifle were stolen from a farm in Trafford (Greater Manchester).
- **Airguns** - A coroner recorded a verdict of suicide at the inquest of a man from Swadlincote (Derbyshire) who shot himself in the stomach with an air rifle.
- More victims were hit by airgun pellets in attacks during November, a number in the North East of England.
 - A man was hit in the face in Telford (Shropshire).
 - A woman was shot in the eye in Sunderland: three teenagers have been arrested. In a second incident in the city a man had to be treated in hospital after being shot with what was believed to have been an airgun pellet.
 - A 12-year-old boy was shot with either an air weapon or BB gun in Thorntree (Middlesbrough).
 - In Gateshead (Tyneside) a man was hit on the hand in Pelaw in one of a series of airgun attacks which police believe are linked, and in another attack in Beacon Lough an 11-year-old boy was lucky to escape with minor injuries when he was shot with a pellet gun.
 - A teenager was shot with an air pistol and received injuries to his elbow and an eye when he was attacked at the crematorium in Barton (Oxford): two teenagers have been arrested.
 - A 9-year-old girl was shot with an air pistol at a primary school in the Forest of Dean (Gloucestershire).

- Two men were arrested after air rifles were fired at police in two separate incidents in Bognor (Sussex) and Weymouth (Dorset).
 - Three shots from what is believed to have been an airgun were fired during a robbery on a takeaway in Blackburn (Lancashire).
 - A man has been charged with threatening another with a firearm, believed to be an air weapon, in Ipswich. A man was arrested after running outside with an airgun when he thought youngsters were aiming fireworks at his Hertford home: four shotguns and cartridges were also seized by police. Armed police officers were called to a house in Grantham (Lincolnshire) following reports that a man was making threats with an air rifle.
 - A train windscreen was damaged when it was hit by an air rifle pellet near St Erth station (Cornwall).
 - **Imitation Guns** - A number of victims were injured in attacks with imitation guns.
 - A 13-year-old was shot in the stomach with a ball-bearing gun in Lowestoft (Suffolk).
 - Two people were shot in separate incidents in South Gloucestershire involving a ball-bearing gun, in Henbury and Stoke Gifford.
 - Two 11-year-old children were shot with a BB gun whilst walking in York: a 12-year-old boy has been arrested
 - A woman was struck on the hand by a paintball pellet in Lowestoft (Suffolk).
 - A boy is reported to have caused damage in Barrow and Walney in Cumbria where he opened fire with a ball-bearing gun. A ball-bearing gun was probably fired from a moving car to cause damage to vehicles and bus shelters in Southbourne and Christchurch (Dorset).
 - Two youths were spoken to by police in Andover (Hampshire) and a BB gun seized after one of them was seen with a gun.
 - A teenage girl who smuggled a ball-bearing gun into her school in Manchester has been excluded.
 - A shopkeeper from Inverness has been accused of selling imitation guns after a spate of incidents across the Highlands involving people carrying imitation weapons. Police have seized BB guns from a Christmas shop in Poole (Dorset) and are investigating whether they are realistic enough to be mistaken for real firearms.
 - Carers who discovered a gun in the house of an elderly disabled woman they were attending in Stoke-on-Trent were concerned enough about the weapon, a starter pistol owned by her husband, to stop visiting.
 - **Incidents Involving Animals** - There was the usual list of reports of cats targeted by airgun snipers, this month from Devon (two reports), Glamorgan, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire (two reports), West Midlands (three reports) and West Yorkshire.
 - Others animals were the victims of shootings. A dog was found dead with a gunshot wound in Pentre (Mid Glamorgan). A reward has been offered for information into the shooting of a number of ducks in March (Cambridgeshire).
 - See also Airguns (Court Cases) below.
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- **Convictions** - Seven men, all members of the Outlaws biker gang, have received life sentences after being convicted of murder and other offences following the death of a man who was shot on the M40 in Warwickshire.

In a separate trial, only reported this month, another member of the Outlaws was sentenced to 12 years after guns and ammunition were discovered at his home in Selsley (Gloucestershire).

- A man has been jailed for a minimum of four years for the manslaughter of his stepfather whom he shot dead at his home in Liverpool.
- Two men have been convicted for their part in a shotgun attack on a man in Preston (Lancashire): one of them was found guilty of attempted murder and possession of a firearm with intent to commit murder.
- As a result of another shotgun attack in Partington (Manchester), in which the victim was shot in the back and chest, a man has been jailed for 10 years.
- Following two separate incidents in Glasgow a man has been jailed for nearly six years in prison after a shotgun attack which took place in 2004 in which two people were injured, and another man who dropped a bag containing a loaded shotgun, which then injured the police officer who picked it up, has been jailed for five years.
- Two men involved in an armed carjacking and in a subsequent attempted robbery on a betting shop in Oldbury (West Midlands) have been jailed for 17 and a half years and nine years.
- A man has admitted possessing various prohibited weapons and having a firearm and ammunition in a public place in Broad Green (Liverpool) but denies the murder of a man in Huyton (Merseyside) whom he does admit robbing.
- An internet trader from Sittingbourne (Kent) has been jailed for five years for possessing prohibited firearms, a shotgun without a certificate and a rocket launcher.
- A memorabilia collector from Stafford has been jailed for five years for possessing a Second World War rifle listed as a prohibited weapon.
- A 20-year-old from Halliwell (Bolton) has been found guilty of two counts of possessing a prohibited firearm and three counts of possessing ammunition without the correct authority after video footage was posted on YouTube: he has been sent to a young offenders institution for five years (see [September 2008 Incidents](#)).
- A number of teenagers appeared in court for offences involving guns.
 - A teenager was jailed for five years after police found a revolver, ammunition and cannabis at his house in Allenton (Derby).
 - A 14-year-old from New Cross (south London) who has admitted possessing a 9 mm Baikal pistol and a bag of 9mm cartridges has been told that custody was "almost inevitable" (see [August 2008 Incidents](#)).
 - A teenager from Bolton, who was 16 at the time of his offences, has been jailed for four years with a further one year on licence after he threatened two women, one of whom he sexually assaulted, by holding a gun to their heads.
 - After a spate of shootings in Huyton (Merseyside) an 18-year-old was jailed for six years for possessing a handgun and a concurrent seven-year sentence for possessing a submachine gun. His teenage cousin was also given a seven year sentence after he was caught with the submachine gun. Another man was sentenced for three years.
- **Airguns (Court Cases)** - A man who fired an air rifle out of a bathroom window in Castleford (West Yorkshire) and hit his neighbour and his son has been jailed for three years. Two teenagers who admitted assault after a woman was hit in the head by an airgun pellet in Waterloo (West Yorkshire) have been ordered to do 150 hours and 200 hours unpaid work.

- A 16-year-old who fired an air rifle at a schoolboy hitting him in the hip in an incident in Aberdare has been given a 10 months detention and training order after failing to comply with a community order. An 18-year-old who shot a 14-year-old with an air weapon whilst they were fishing in Northampton has been given 162 hours community service and ordered to pay £500 compensation.
- A man from Brinton (Norfolk) who shot dead his neighbour's dog with an air rifle after claiming to have become annoyed at its early morning barking was given a two-year conditional discharge after he admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. He was also ordered to pay costs and £1,750 compensation.
- Another man who shot a collared dove with an air rifle was given a 12-month conditional discharge and fined £938 after pleading guilty to shooting the bird at his home in Eastwood (Nottinghamshire).
- A woman who admitted assault and breach of the peace after brandishing an airgun at two people in Blantyre (Lanarkshire) has been fined £600.
- A man was jailed for 44 weeks after an incident in Nelson (Lancashire) in which he charged outside his house with a loaded airgun and a Samurai sword.
- A 16-year-old has been given a six month referral order after being caught with an air weapon by police in Plymouth.
- **Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A number of men who used imitation firearms to commit robberies were convicted.
 - A man who robbed five Merseyside taxi drivers at gunpoint has pleaded guilty to six robberies and six offences of possessing an imitation firearm with intent and has been jailed for 11 years: his 19-year-old cousin received a 21 month sentence for his involvement in one of the offences.
 - Two men who raided a bookmakers in Gateshead pleaded guilty to robbery and possessing an imitation firearm and knife: both were jailed for five years.
 - Two men have been jailed for eight-and-a-half years and six-and-a-half years for a robbery at a takeaway in Chorlton (Manchester) when a fake gun was held to a man's head.
 - An 18-year-old has admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice by allowing a blank firing pistol to be concealed at his address following an armed robbery at a bookmakers in Ovenden (West Yorkshire): two people have pleaded guilty to robbery.
- A man who caused another man to fear violence when he showed him an imitation firearm in St Albans (Hertfordshire) was jailed for 18 months. A man who pointed an imitation firearm at a librarian in Blackpool (Lancashire) has been placed on 18 months supervision.
- A woman who threatened two women in Troon (Ayrshire) and had admitted assault, repeatedly presenting a handgun or imitation handgun at one of the women has been jailed for four-and-a-half years (see [October 2008 Incidents](#)).

ENGLAND

Sunday Mirror, 30 November 2008

Two men have been jailed for their part in a hold up at a takeaway in **Chorlton**, Manchester, in which they fled with £1000. Ryan Williams was sentenced to eight-and-a-half years after holding a **fake gun** to a man's head. Mark Greaves, who acted as a look out, was jailed for six-and-a-half years.

BBC, 30 November 2008

A man has been shot dead by police in **Guildford**, Surrey. Armed officers were deployed following reports of an armed man. The IPCC are investigating the shooting.

Sunderland Echo, 29 November 2008

A man is in hospital after being shot with what is believed to have been an **airgun** pellet in **Sunderland**. His injuries were not believed to be life-threatening and his condition was described as stable.

BBC, 29 November 2008

A taxi driver is recovering at home after being struck over the head with what is believed to have been a handgun. He was attacked by two men in **Normanton**, Derby, who then drove off in his car.

This is Gloucestershire, 28 November 2008

David Melles, a member of the Outlaws gang involved in the murder of a biker (see below), has been jailed for 12 years after sawn-off and pump-action shotguns, dum dum bullets and a Derringer pistol were found at his house in **Selsley**, Gloucestershire, by police who stopped a car in which he was travelling at a roadblock. Although there was no known link between the weapons and the biker's death, details of this case could only be published after the conviction of the M40 killers. Melles had pleaded guilty to 10 charges of having prohibited firearms and ammunition.

This is Cornwall, 28 November 2008

A train windscreen was damaged when it was hit by a pellet fired from an **air rifle** near to **St Erth** station in Cornwall. A £1000 reward has been offered for information relating to the incident.

Sunderland Echo, 28 November 2008

A man is on trial having denied making an explosive substance without a lawful objective. Police found a pipe bomb in a safe in his bedroom in **Durham** in November 2007. Also in the safe were two **imitation firearms**, knives and ammunition. The trial continues.

Evening Chronicle, 28 November 2008

An 11-year-old boy was lucky to escape with minor injuries when he was shot with a **pellet gun** at close range as he played with friends in woods at **Beacon Lough**, Gateshead. He needed staples in his head after being shot with a brass pellet. The gun was fired by one of three older boys who held the weapon at the boy's head and pulled the trigger.

Bucks Free Press, 28 November 2008

A man armed with a gun made off with a large amount of cash which he seized from security guards at a garage in **Amersham**, Buckinghamshire. He escaped in a car being driven by another man.

BBC, 28 November 2008

A Mac-10 sub machine gun recovered by police from a garden in **south London** in September 2008 has been linked to an operation where **replica weapons** were converted into lethal weapons in a factory in **Three Mile Cross**, Berkshire. Grant Wilkinson was jailed for life in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) for turning the replicas into weapons, which have been linked to more than 50 shootings. Police have offered a £10,000 reward for any information leading to the recovery of 40 outstanding converted guns.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 27 November 2008

Shaun Cockerham pointed an **air rifle** out of the bathroom window of his parents' home in **Castleford**, West Yorkshire, and fired at a neighbour and his 14-year-old son. The incident occurred in November 2007. The man was hit in the right side and a pellet went through his son's jeans but caused no injury. Cockerham was convicted of assault, attempted assault and possessing a firearm when he was prohibited from doing so. He has 35 previous convictions and has been jailed for three years.

Liverpool Daily Post, 27 November 2008

A 15-year-old boy has been detained after a sawn-off shotgun was found at a house in **St Helens**, Merseyside. He has appeared before magistrates charged with possession of a firearm.

Cambridge News, 27 November 2008

A man wielding a silver handgun robbed a betting shop in **Cambridge**. He placed a bag on top of the counter and ordered the staff to fill it with cash. He left the shop with just over £500.

Bolton News, 27 November 2008

Police found a machine gun and other weapons during a raid on a travellers' site in **Bolton**. Four men were arrested as part of an operation to crack down on burglary and handling stolen goods.

BBC, 27 November 2008

A man has been killed following a drive-by shooting in **West Croydon**, south London. He was taken to hospital where he later died.

BBC, 27 November 2008

Six men have now been found guilty of murdering a Hells Angel on the **M40** in Warwickshire in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot as he returned from a biker festival. Malcolm Bull, Dean Taylor, Simon Turner, Dane Garside were convicted of murder and a firearms offence, Karl Garside and Ian Cameron were found guilty of murder but cleared of possessing a shotgun. A seventh man, Sean Creighton, admitted murder and firearms offences before the trial began. They have all been given life sentences with a minimum of 25 to 30 years in jail (*BBC*, 28 November 2008).

Daily Echo, 26 November 2008

Police believe that a **ball bearing gun** may have been used to cause damage to more than 20 vehicles and at least seven bus shelters in and around **Southbourne** and **Christchurch** in Dorset. Vandals took pot shots from a moving car.

Manchester Evening News, 25 November 2008

Nathan Flaherty has been jailed for ten years for blasting another man in the back and chest with a sawn-off shotgun as part of a feud in the **Partington** area of Manchester in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot through the windscreen of a car in which he was asleep and was hit again as he tried to escape. Flaherty fled from Manchester but gave himself up to the police. He admitted offences of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and possessing the shotgun.

BBC, 25 November 2008

A man has been charged with attempted murder following a shooting incident in **South Kirkby**, West Yorkshire, in which the victim was shot in the arm. One other man remains in custody and two males have been released on bail.

BBC, 25 November 2008

A family was threatened with knives and a stun gun by two men who escaped with cash and jewellery during a robbery at their home in **Luton**, Bedfordshire.

BBC, 25 November 2008

Faisal Mostafa has been given a suspended sentence for trying to board a plane at **Manchester Airport** with a gas-powered pistol and bullet parts in his suitcase. He admitted possessing dangerous articles on an aircraft after he failed to declare them when he checked in. Prosecutors did not dispute they were for hunting and that the gun, which was packed in component parts, had been purchased as a gift for his brother-in-law in Bangladesh. In 1996 he had been found guilty of illegally possessing a firearm, sentenced to four years in prison and banned for life from possessing a firearm. He was given a 56 day prison sentence, suspended for two years and ordered to undertake 100 hours of unpaid work.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 24 November 2008

A man from **Ansdell**, Blackpool, has been charged with possessing a firearm and 11 rounds of ammunition without a firearms certificate. The weapon and bullets were said to have been found hidden in a cushion at his home.

Bolton News, 24 November 2008

Jason Pearson threatened two women within an hour by holding a gun to their heads in a **Bolton** subway in January 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He was aged 16 at the time. He has been jailed for four years with a further one year on licence when he is released after pleading guilty to two counts of robbery and one count of sexual assault.

BBC, 24 November 2008

A man armed with an **air rifle** opened fire on police officers when they were called to an address in **Weymouth**, Dorset. A man has been arrested.

BBC, 24 November 2008

A house was damaged during a shooting in **Cheadle**, Greater Manchester. One bullet damaged the front door. Four men were seen walking away from the house.

BBC, 24 November 2008

A man "brandishing a firearm" demanded money from staff at a convenience store in **Falmouth**, Cornwall. He stole £600.

Press Association, 22 November 2008

A man has died after a shooting in an alleyway in **Ealing**, west London. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Evening Chronicle, 21 November 2008

Daniel McDowell and Sean Hall raided a bookmakers in **Gateshead** in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)), threatening staff with an imitation pistol and demanding cash. They have both pleaded guilty to robbery and possessing the **imitation firearm** and knife. Both have been jailed for five years, plus a further two to run concurrently.

Daily Echo, 21 November 2008

Police have seized **BB guns** from a Christmas shop in **Poole**, Dorset, where they were on sale alongside decorations and gifts. The guns included a full-scale replica of an M85 rifle type. The guns are now the subject of a hands-on investigation over fears they are realistic enough to be mistaken for the real thing. The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 prohibits the manufacture, sale or import of realistic-looking imitation firearms.

BBC, 21 November 2008

Two masked men armed with a handgun threatened a post office worker during an attempted robbery in **Epping**, Essex. They tried to steal money from the till but failed and ran off.

This is Hampshire, 20 November 2008

Armed police were called out when a 14-year-old boy was seen with a gun in **Andover**, Hampshire. The police seized a **BB gun** and pellets. The youth and a 12-year-old boy have been spoken to by police officers.

Sun, 20 November 2008

An army sergeant has appeared before a disciplinary hearing after allegedly firing off an AK47 rifle and leaving bullet holes in the walls of an office at a barracks in **Blackwater**, Surrey. An officer hurt his hand when diving for cover. The sergeant has appeared in court on a charge of possession of a firearm with intent to cause violence.

The Sentinel, 20 November 2008

Carers who believed they were at risk stopped their visits to an elderly disabled woman after discovering a **starter pistol** in her home in **Stoke-on-Trent**. The pistol belonged to her husband who explained it was harmless. The council has now sent in temporary carers and is investigating the incident.

BBC, 20 November 2008

Police have revealed that a man found dead at an address in **Tividale**, West Midlands, earlier this month had been shot in the chest with a shotgun. A woman was also found to have been assaulted, leaving her with a minor head injury.

BBC, 20 November 2008

A 9-year-old girl was shot with an **air pistol** as she left a primary school in the **Forest of Dean**, Gloucestershire. She was treated immediately and then went home. Although not thought to be seriously hurt she was very shocked. A 10-year-old boy has been arrested.

BBC, 20 November 2008

Two 11-year-old children have been shot with a **BB gun** while walking with friends in **York**. A girl had a pellet mark on her back which was bleeding and the boy was left with a red and bruised leg. A 12-year-old boy has been arrested in connection with the attack (*The Press*, 24 November 2008).

Yorkshire Evening Post, 19 November 2008

A man has been shot in **Chapelton**, Leeds. He was found after an ambulance was called to an address in a nearby street. He is in hospital and was said to be in a stable condition with a stomach wound.

Oxford Mail, 19 November 2008

A teenager is believed to have been shot with an **air pistol** when he was attacked by two men at the crematorium in **Barton**, Oxford. He has a fractured elbow and an eye injury which could have been caused by an air pistol. Two teenagers have been charged, one with causing grievous bodily harm with intent, possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear and dangerous driving and the other with causing grievous bodily harm with intent and possession of an offensive weapon (*Oxford Mail*, 20 November 2008).

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 19 November 2008

Gary Blundred, 18, shot a 14-year-old boy in the face with an **air weapon** whilst they were fishing in **St James**, Northampton, in June 2008. He had the weapon with him to scare off wild fowl and had fired it parallel to the bank. The victim still has a metal pellet lodged in his skull. Blundred admitted wounding and was given 162 hours of community service and was ordered to pay £500 in compensation.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 19 November 2008

A shotgun was fired through the front door of a home in **Kingsley**, Northampton. A hole was blasted through the door. No one was injured.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 19 November 2008

Andrew Naylor pointed a **fake gun** at a librarian's head when he was asked to leave a library in **Blackpool** in January 2008. He twice pulled the trigger on the pistol. He pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was placed on 18 months supervision with a requirement to live where directed by the probation service.

BBC, 19 November 2008

Two people were arrested after reports that a firearm had been discharged in **Normanton**, Derby. A man has appeared in court charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life (*This is Derbyshire*, 28 November 2008).

St Albans & Harpenden Review, 18 November 2008

Adam Boon has pleaded guilty to possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence to another man. He was visiting a friend in **St Albans**, Hertfordshire, when their noise disturbed a neighbour who did not accept their apology. Boon said he was frightened and took the pistol, which did not work, to show the man he was armed. The judge said it would be unjust to sentence him to the recommended minimum sentence of five years and jailed him for 18 months.

Northern Echo, 18 November 2008

A robber brandishing a weapon, possibly a handgun, targeted a cash delivery at a cash point at a supermarket in **Yarm**, Teesside. He grabbed an amount of cash and made off in a car driven by another suspect.

Northumberland Gazette, 17 November 2008

Police believe that a series of **airgun** attacks in Tyneside are linked. A man was hit on his hand in **Pelaw** and the police received a report of damage to windows in **Heworth**. Later a porch window in **Pelaw** was damaged.

Liverpool Echo, 17 November 2008

Nathan McGrail, 18, has been jailed for six years for possessing a handgun and bullets used in a robbery and was given a seven-year-sentence to run concurrently for possessing an Uzi submachine gun. He had been wanted in connection with a spate of shootings in **Huyton**, Merseyside. His cousin Jason McGrail, 19, was also given a seven year sentence after he was caught in a taxi carrying an Uzi, a silencer and dozens of cartridges. George Sweeney was sentenced for three years for attempting to retrieve a gun used by the McGrail family.

Liverpool Echo, 17 November 2008

A shotgun was fired at a house in **Netherton**, Merseyside, in an early morning attack. The family living at the house escaped injury.

BBC, 17 November 2008

A man is seriously ill in hospital after being shot in the leg in a pub in **Moss Side**, Manchester. He was said by police to be in a serious condition and was "lucky to be alive".

This is Plymouth, 14 November 2008

A 16-year-old has pleaded guilty to possession of an **air weapon** in a public place after police were called when a youth was seen with a gun heading towards a fast food restaurant in **Plymouth** in July 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Police believe that an organised fight had been planned. It was claimed that the teenager did not own the gun which belonged to another youth who was carrying two knives and was also arrested. He has been given a six month referral order. The BB gun will be forfeited and destroyed.

This is Derbyshire, 14 November 2008

A teenager was jailed for five years after police found a .38 compact revolver at a home in **Allenton**, Derby. They also found ammunition in a bag with the gun and in his house, as well as cannabis and drug paraphernalia. Ferrari Forrest-Clarke pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited firearm, two charges of possessing ammunition without a firearms certificate, possessing prohibited ammunition and possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

BBC, 14 November 2008

Ten teenagers have been arrested in **Croxteth**, Merseyside, on suspicion of possession of a firearm. They were stopped by police who thought they were acting suspiciously. A weapon, believed to be a decommissioned firearm, was recovered.

BBC, 14 November 2008

A man brandished a handgun and demanded cash from an assistant at a garage on the A19 near **Easington**, County Durham. He ran out of the store without taking any money.

Telegraph, 13 November 2008

A coroner has recorded an open verdict at an inquest into the death of a man who was found dead by armed police at his home in **Cirencester**, Gloucestershire, in January 2008. He shot himself with an unsecured shotgun owned by his housemate, but the coroner concluded that the evidence did not match the standard of proof for a finding of suicide.

Telegraph, 13 November 2008

A teenage girl who smuggled a **ball-bearing pistol** into her school in **Manchester** has been excluded. It is believed that the police were tipped off by one of her classmates.

Grantham Journal, 13 November 2008

Armed police officers were called to a house in **Grantham**, Lincolnshire, following reports that a man was making threats with an **air rifle**. He was persuaded to give himself voluntarily and has been arrested on suspicion of assault not relating to the air rifle.

Express & Star, 13 November 2008

Phillip Kent, a memorabilia collector from **Stafford**, has been jailed for five years for possessing a Second World War rifle listed as a prohibited weapon. He was arrested by police acting on information and pleaded guilty to possessing the rifle.

BBC, 13 November 2008

A man has been arrested after firing a "number of firearms" while police officers were negotiating with him at a property in the **Derriford** area of Plymouth. A Taser stun gun was fired by officers during the incident.

Worcester News, 12 November 2008

A man was threatened with a gun, tied up, beaten with a crowbar and had holes drilled in his legs with a screwdriver by three men at his home near **Mustow Green**, Worcestershire. The men stole a quantity of cash. The victim was left for 15 hours until someone found him.

Wigan Evening Post, 12 November 2008

A man from **Standish**, Lancashire, has appeared at court to face child pornography and firearm offences. He is alleged to have had a prohibited weapon and ammunition without a certificate.

Manchester Evening News, 12 November 2008

A silver revolver used to murder a man at a takeaway in **Stretford** in January 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) was found by detectives when they searched a house in **East Didsbury**, Greater Manchester, in May as part of an unconnected investigation. A forensic link has been made to bullets found at the scene of the murder. Asim Bashir was jailed for six years for possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life in September 2008 in connection with the seizure. No one has been convicted for the fatal shooting.

Lancashire Evening Post, 12 November 2008

Two men, aged 20 and 18, have both pleaded not guilty to the attempted murder of a man who was hit by 56 shotgun pellets in his upper body when he was shot and beaten with a baseball bat in **Preston** in April 2008. They also deny possession of a firearm with intent to commit murder. The shooting is alleged to have resulted from a drugs feud between rival gangs from the Deepdale and Fishwick areas of the city. Kyle Parvez, 20, has been found guilty of attempted murder and also of possession of a firearm with intent to commit murder. Zainul James, 18, has been found guilty of arson, being reckless as to whether life was endangered. They will be sentenced in December (*The Citizen*, 19 November 2008).

BBC, 12 November 2008

Four people have been arrested in connection with a shooting in **Rugeley**, Staffordshire. A man was shot in the bottom with a gun when a man came out of the bushes.

BBC, 12 November 2008

Two men, one armed with a gun, forced their way into a home in **Slough**, Berkshire, and demanded cash from the occupants. They made off with money and two mobile phones.

BBC, 12 November 2008

A 15-year-old boy has died after being shot in the chest as he was walking along a street in the **Sunnyhill** area of Derby. He was taken to hospital where he died from his injuries. A 19-year-old and an 18-year-old have been charged with murder and two more people face charges of helping an offender (*BBC*, 19 November 2008).

Birmingham Mail, 11 November 2008

A man was mugged at gunpoint as he stood outside a shop in **Smethwick**, West Midlands. Two men threatened him with the gun and demanded money.

BBC, 11 November 2008

A 15-year-old has been arrested after another 15-year-old was shot in the leg in **Pendeford**, West Midlands. The victim was treated in hospital and later discharged.

North West Evening Mail, 10 November 2008

A boy, described as around 15 years old, is reported to have opened fire with a **ball bearing gun** while standing at a bus stop in **Barrow**, Cumbria. A store window was broken. He travelled by bus to **Walney** where homes in three streets were hit. The boy was in the company of another male and two females.

Manchester Evening News, 10 November 2008

Police carried out raids at 17 addresses in **Longsight** and one in **Tameside** in an operation to crackdown on young gangsters before they become involved in major gangland shootings. Six people were arrested.

Evening Gazette, 10 November 2008

A boy aged 12 escaped serious injuries after being shot with an **air weapon** or **BB type gun** in **Thorntree**, Middlesbrough. He suffered reddening and bruising and a slight puncturing of the skin.

Bury Free Press, 10 November 2008

A man threatened staff with a small handgun at a hotel in **Fornham St Genevieve**, Suffolk. He was given cash and then left the premises.

BBC, 10 November 2008

Ronald Higgins has admitted attempting to rob a newsagent but has denied murdering him. The victim was shot dead in his store in **Huyton**, Merseyside, in May 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Higgins has also admitted possession of a .44 Pietta muzzle loading revolver at the time of committing the offence as well as a number of other firearms charges. He admitted having a firearm and ammunition in a public place in **Broad Green**, Liverpool, possessing a stun gun and purchasing a semi-automatic pistol. He pleaded guilty to two other counts of possessing prohibited weapons including two stun guns at a property in **Knotty Ash** and another revolver. A trial is expected to take place in February 2009.

BBC, 10 November 2008

A man was in a serious condition in hospital after being found in a car outside **Beckton** DLR station, east London, with at least one gunshot wound. Two men have been arrested (**BBC**, 11 November 2008).

Avon and Somerset Police, 10 November 2008

Two people were shot at in separate incidents involving a **ball bearing gun**. In the first incident a man out running in **Henbury**, Gloucestershire, was shot and struck in the face. Ten minutes later a man walking in **Stoke Gifford**, Gloucestershire, was hit in the face with a shot fired from a car.

Northumberland Gazette, 9 November 2008

Three teenagers have been arrested after a woman was shot in the eye with an **airgun** pellet in **Sunderland**.

BBC, 9 November 2008

A man pointed a small handgun at staff during a raid at a fast food restaurant in **Waltham Abbey**, Essex. He threatened staff and forced them to open the till, took money from it and then ran out of the restaurant.

Liverpool Echo, 8 November 2008

John Muldoon robbed five Merseyside taxi drivers at gunpoint. The robberies in **Huyton, Southport, Maghull** and the centre of **Liverpool** took place in a seven week period around January 2008. He pleaded guilty to six robberies and six offences of possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent and has been given an 11-year jail sentence. His cousin Stephen Black, 19, admitted his involvement in one of the offences and was sentenced to 21 months.

Lancashire Telegraph, 8 November 2008

Two men walked into a takeaway in **Blackburn** carrying what appeared to be a handgun. They asked the assistant to fill a bag with money and when he turned his back they fired three shots with what is now believed to be an **airgun** before fleeing empty handed. One of the shots caused bruising to the assistant's lower back.

Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough), 8 November 2008

Stuart Sillitoe has admitted attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** and been jailed for four years. He brandished a "weapon" in front of three female staff at a post office in **Middlesbrough** and demanded cash in a bag. One member of staff pressed the panic alarm button and Sillitoe fled empty handed. The weapon was a scaffold pole wrapped in a towel.

Echo (Essex), 8 November 2008

A lorry driver was tied up and robbed after being threatened by two men, one of whom told him he had a gun, at a service area in **Thurrock** and forced to drive across Essex. He was ordered to stop at two unknown locations before being told to pull up in a lay-by where two containers were unloaded from the lorry onto another lorry. He was found at **Fyfield** (*BBC*, 8 November 2008).

BBC, 8 November 2008

Three shotguns and an **air rifle** were stolen from a farm in **Trafford**, Greater Manchester, along with a number of valuable antiques.

BBC, 8 November 2008

Two men threatened staff with a gun and an axe during an armed robbery at a hotel in **Bristol**. One man has been charged with robbery and possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

Mercury (Hertfordshire), 7 November 2008

Alan Parker ran outside with an **airgun** when he thought youngsters deliberately aimed fireworks at his home in **Hertford**. Armed police who closed the road outside his house to arrest him say they were responding to reports that a shotgun was involved. Four shotguns and cartridges from a gun cabinet were seized as well as the airgun.

BBC, 7 November 2008

A man has been arrested after a rifle was fired at police from a house in **Bognor**, Sussex. The officers had been called to reports that a man had injured himself. The gun is reported to have been an **air rifle** (*The Argus*, 10 November 2008).

Southern Daily Echo, 6 November 2008

Two armed robbers held up a taxi driver in **Southampton**, wrenching open his door, pointing a black handgun at him and demanding money

Rugby Advertiser, 6 November 2008

Staff were held at gunpoint in an attack during an event at a **Rugby** hotel. Two men, One armed with a shotgun, got away with a high value quantity of jewellery.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 6 November 2008

Two teenagers, Ashley Matthews and John Moorhouse, have admitted assault after a woman was hit in the head by an **airgun** pellet in **Waterloo**, Huddersfield. They were ordered to do 150 hours and 200 hours unpaid work, respectively. Moorhouse was given a two-month compensation order.

Halesowen News, 6 November 2008

Liam Ford was involved in a violent carjack at gunpoint and was then in a gang who fired shots as they tried to rob a betting shop in **Oldbury**, West Midlands, using the car as a getaway vehicle. He has been jailed for a total of 17 and a half years. His accomplice Ryan Kirk had been sent to prison for a total of nine years.

Evening Star, 6 November 2008

A shotgun, ammunition and a quantity of cash were stolen during a break-in at a house in **Wickham Market**, Suffolk.

Evening Courier, 6 November 2008

Two men and a youth have appeared in court in connection with an armed robbery at a bookmakers in **Ovenden**, West Yorkshire, in July 2008. Nathan Hutchinson, 18, admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice by allowing a **blank firing pistol** to be concealed at his address. Jonathan Williams and the youth pleaded guilty to robbery.

Buxton Advertiser, 6 November 2008

Staff at an off-licence in **Chapel-en-le-Frith**, Derbyshire were threatened with a gun and a bat by robbers. Three youths demanded cash but when staff refused they left the shop with a bottle of vodka and two bottles of brandy.

Bolton News, 6 November 2008

A gunshot was fired when armed raiders tried to steal hundreds of thousands of pounds during a raid on a security depot in **Kearsley**, Bolton. The gang of three men failed to gain access to the building and a security van and fled empty handed.

BBC, 6 November 2008

A female armed robber fired a shot into the floor during a failed raid on a post office in **High Spen**, Tyneside. The postmistress refused to hand over money.

BBC, 5 November 2008

A man pointed a gun at two people at a post office in **Watford**, Hertfordshire, during a failed attempt to steal cash.

BBC, 5 November 2008

A 17-year-old youth was seriously injured in a shooting in **Wavertree**, Liverpool. He was taken to hospital where he remained in a serious but stable condition.

Mail, 4 November 2008

An internet trader has been jailed for five years. David Sampson from **Sittingbourne**, Kent, sold deactivated weapons on eBay and traded guns on the auction site as a legitimate collector. He stockpiled grenades, a rocket launcher and guns, most of which were legally held, but police found a 9 mm Luger self-loading pistol and a Belgian pistol hidden when they raided the property in October 2006. He was convicted of four gun-related charges, two of possessing a prohibited firearm, possessing a shotgun without a certificate and possessing a rocket launcher.

Evening Star, 4 November 2008

A man has been charged with threatening another with a firearm at a block of flats in **Ipswich**. It is believed that the weapon was an **air rifle**.

Burton Mail, 4 November 2008

An alcoholic from **Swadlincote**, Derbyshire, who had threatened to kill himself with an **air rifle**, which the police duly seized but had to return to him, was able to use the weapon two months later to shoot himself fatally in the stomach in June 2008. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

Ham & High, 3 November 2008

A gunman opened fire on a police car in **Highgate**, north London. The officers escaped without injury. A man who allegedly threatened a dog handler with a shotgun was arrested. Two teenagers were also arrested in relation to the incident.

Eastern Daily Press, 3 November 2008

A 13-year-old was shot in the stomach with a **ball-bearing gun** while out trick-or-treating in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk. In a separate incident a woman was struck on the hand by a **paintball pellet**.

BBC, 5 November 2008

A man was hit in the face with an **airgun** pellet in **Telford**, Shropshire. The victim is said to be in a comfortable condition in hospital after the pellet became lodged in his cheek. He also suffered swelling to the bridge of his nose.

BBC, 3 November 2008

A drug addict, Graeme Kee, has pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He shot his stepfather three times at his home in **Liverpool** in October 2007 (see [November 2007 Incidents](#)). He has been given an indeterminate sentence and must serve four years before he can apply for parole.

The Citizen (Burnley), 2 November 2008

Daniel McLaughlin has been jailed after "charging" outside his house in **Nelson**, Lancashire, with a loaded **airgun** and a Samurai sword after getting angry at a youth in September 2008. Residents, one of them feared for his life, alerted police. McLaughlin admitted possessing a loaded air weapon in public and possessing an offensive weapon. He was jailed for 44 weeks.

SCOTLAND

Sunday Mail, 30 November 2008

A man who was finally captured by police in July 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) after going on the run after a shooting in **Glasgow** in July 2004 has been sentenced to nearly six years in prison. Following a confrontation at a club Gordon Horsfall had opened fire at random with a shotgun. One woman passer-by was injured by a ricochet before he then turned to a doorman and shot him through the hand.

BBC, 24 November 2008

Two men carried out an armed raid on a bookmakers in **Renfrew**. One of the men was brandishing what appeared to be a gun. They threatened staff and fled with a three figure sum of cash.

Sunday Mail, 23 November 2008

Michael Nelson has admitted recklessly leaving a shotgun in a polythene bag which he dumped when he was being chased by police in **Glasgow**. A police constable picked up the bag and the loaded gun went off, shooting him in the hand. Nelson, who claimed he had been asked to look after the firearm for a drug dealer, also pleaded guilty to a contravention of the Firearms Act. He was jailed for five years.

BBC, 23 November 2008

A man brandishing what appeared to be a firearm robbed a shop in **Johnstone**, Renfrewshire. He fled with a three-figure sum of money. No shots were fired and the staff members were badly shaken but otherwise unhurt.

BBC, 19 November 2008

Police have seized 23 illegal firearms and arrested almost 300 people during a crackdown on serious and organised crime during a four-week operation by **Strathclyde Police**.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 17 November 2008

A drugs charity worker was sacked for gross misconduct after being accused of bringing an air weapon or imitation firearm to work. He had fired a **toy gun** at work in **Edinburgh**. However, an employment tribunal has concluded that Graham Bennett was sacked unfairly though found him ten percent to blame. He has received compensation.

Hamilton Advertiser, 13 November 2008

Linda Gibson has been fined £600 for brandishing an **airgun** at a man and a woman in **Blantyre**, Lanarkshire, before carrying out an assault in September 2008. She admitted the assault and a breach of the peace.

BBC, 13 November 2008

A man is recovering in hospital after being shot in the arm, leg and stomach during an attack in **Hamilton**, South Lanarkshire. He is in a stable condition and is expected to make a full recovery. Police are treating the attack as attempted murder.

Press & Journal, 7 November 2008

A shopkeeper from **Inverness** has been accused of selling **imitation guns**. The allegation follows a spate of incidents across the Highlands involving the public reporting people carrying imitation weapons.

Sunday Mail, 2 November 2008

A man and a woman have been arrested after police found three guns and ammunition at a house in **Clydebank**.

WALES

BBC, 24 November 2008

Armed police were sent to a house in **Edwardsville**, Merthyr Tydfil, following reports that a person had been seen with a firearm. South Wales Police said they did not find anybody at the house or any firearms.

South Wales Echo, 15 November 2008

A 16-year-old who pointed an **air rifle** at a schoolboy's feet and ordered him to dance before firing into his hip has been given a 10 months detention and training order. He had previously been convicted of causing grievous bodily harm but had failed to comply with a community order which was imposed at the time. The incident occurred in **Aberdare** after the two youths had been invited to shoot cans by two other youths who had the gun.

This is South Wales, 10 November 2008

A hooded youngster robbed two young women at gunpoint in **Swansea**. He threatened them with what police said was a small pistol and stole a handbag and cash before running off.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Wisbech Standard, 28 November 2008

A £1000 reward has been offered to find those responsible for the killing of ducks found shot dead in the centre of **March**, Cambridgeshire. Three were found with bullet wounds, but police were told that as many as eight ducks may have been killed.

Melton Times, 27 November 2008

A pet cat from **Syston**, Leicestershire, has been shot and injured three times in two **airgun** attacks since August. Her owners are also concerned that her housemate who came home with a bloody hole in her nose and a swollen eye may also have been the victim of an air weapon attack.

Daily Mail, 27 November 2008

Phil Bishop shot dead his neighbour's dog after becoming annoyed at its early morning barking. The dog died minutes after being shot when Bishop fired his **.22 air rifle** from his study window in **Brinton**, Norfolk. He claimed he was aiming to hit a metal bench in his next door garden to make a noise to scare the dog away. He was given a two-year conditional discharge after he admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. He was also ordered to pay costs and £1,750 compensation.

Eastwood & Kimberley Advertiser, 21 November 2008

A man has been given a 12-month conditional discharge and fined £938 after pleading guilty to shooting a collared dove. James Dodd also signed his **air rifle** over to the RSPCA. The dove had to be put to sleep after being hit with a pellet. Dodd had been seen shooting the bird at his home in **Eastwood**, Nottinghamshire.

BBC, 21 November 2008

A cat suffered immense pain and had to be put to sleep following an incident in **Paignton**, Devon, in which she was shot with an **airgun**. A pellet lodged near her spine and despite an operation the effects of her injury were too severe.

Keighley News, 14 November 2008

A cat owner arrived home in **Keighley**, West Yorkshire, to discover a trail of blood leading to her pet. She had been shot at close range in the stomach. It appears she was shot with a high powered **air rifle**.

BBC, 14 November 2008

A kitten has died and two cats have been injured in **airgun** attacks according to the RSPCA. The kitten was shot in **Stoke-on-Trent**. The injured cats were attacked in **Pensnett** and **Sedgley** in the West Midlands.

Rhondda Leader, 13 November 2008

A dog has been found dead from a gunshot wound in **Pentre**, Mid Glamorgan. The dog had suffered a deep wound to its right ear and may have been led to the scene before it died. Four days earlier a cat from **Tylorstown** had been shot in the throat with an **air rifle**. The cat survived but needed pain relief and sedation.

Coventry Evening Telegraph, 12 November 2008

A kitten is recovering after being shot with a **pellet gun** in the **Tile Hill** area of Coventry. X-rays showed a pellet had gone through her internal organs and surgery was needed to fix her ruptured kidney and colon.

This is North Devon, 8 November 2008

A cat was shot with an **airgun** and left to die near his family home in **Barnstaple**, Devon. An x-ray showed he had been shot in the shoulder and the pellet had gone into the animal's spine, causing permanent damage. He had to be put to sleep.

The Citizen (Blackburn), 2 November 2008

A cat was left in agony after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Mill Hill**, Blackburn. X-rays showed a pellet lodged close to his heart. The pellet entered his body just behind his right front leg.

The Sentinel, 1 November 2008

A cat has been left struggling to walk after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Hanford**, Staffordshire. A pellet is lodged in her brain. Two years ago another of the owner's cats was shot and a pellet was left embedded in his head.

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